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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 HA-05 NSC-05
CIAE-00 /052 W
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P 272037Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9859
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

S E C R E T MEXICO 06979

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, MX, PINS, AR (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: ATTEMPT BY PERONIST MONTONERO MOVEMENT TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM DR. RICARDO A. OBREGON CANO REQUESTING THAT HE AND AN ASSOCIATE, DR. JOSE CARLOS ESCUDERO, BE PERMITTED TO MEET WITH SECRETARY VANCE DURING THE SECRETARY'S UPCOMING VISIT TO MEXICO. DR. OBREGON WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS, BEGIN QUOTE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA, THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION, AND THE SIGNS OF DISINTEGRATION OF THE RULING MILITARY JUNTA IN ARGENTINA END QUOTE. EMBASSY IS NOT SUGGESTING REQUEST BE GRANTED, BUT COULD USE DEPT. GUIDANCE AS TO TERMS OF RESPONSE.

2. OBREGON IS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE PERONIST MONTONERO MOVEMENT COMMUNITY OF MEXICO. HE HAS BEEN A PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEGISLATOR, A MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND JUSTICE IN THE ARGENTINE STATE GOVERNMENT OF CORDOBA, AND GOVERNOR OF CORDOBA. HE HAS APPARENTLY

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LIVED IN MEXICO FOR AT LEAST FOUR YEARS. DR. ESCUDERO IS ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINIAN COMMUNITY OF MEXICO.

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3. [redacted] 3.3(b)(1)
THE CUBAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO APPROACHED THE GOM, ON BEHALF OF THE PERONIST MONTONERO MOVEMENT IN JAN. 1978, IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENLIST MEXICAN PRESIDENT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO TO ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE MONTONEROS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. THE GOM REJECTED THIS REQUEST. THE MOVEMENT HAS NOT MADE ANY PRIOR ATTEMPT TO CONTACT EMBASSY OFFICIALS DIRECTLY BUT OBREGON'S LETTER APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SOME OFFICIAL CONTACT.

4. THE MONTONEROS ARE PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN MEXICO BY THE GOM AND OPERATE WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS, BUT THEY PROJECT A VERY LOW PROFILE AND OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR MEXICAN HOSTS WOULD NOT TAKE KINDLY TO ANY INCIDENT WHICH COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING TO THE GOM, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF RECENT MEXICAN ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA. THERE ARE NO REPORTS THAT ANY TERRORIST ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED THROUGH THE MONTONEROS RESIDENT IN MEXICO. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT CONSIDER THE MONTONEROS TO BE A PHYSICAL THREAT TO THE SECRETARY BUT WE HAVE TAKEN THE PRECAUTION OF ALERTING RSO. LUCEY

[redacted] 3.5(c)

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